

try. It also underscores the importance of having the right to vote and of faithfully exercising that right, so that this Nation might always be true to the ideals enshrined in our Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1991, as Women's Equality Day. I invite all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6318 of July 25, 1991

National Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Week, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

It is estimated that more than 250,000 children in the United States suffer from some form of arthritis. A chronic inflammatory disease of unknown cause, juvenile arthritis may attack the joints and major organs of the body, such as the heart, liver, spleen, and eyes. The disease, which can last a lifetime, often makes even simple tasks difficult and frustrating for its victims.

In addition to the physical pain and limitations that it imposes on its young victims, juvenile arthritis can inflict emotional and financial hardship on entire families. This week, as our Nation reaffirms its commitment to the fight against juvenile arthritis, we commend the courage of the children who cope with the disease from day to day. We also applaud the strength and the resourcefulness of their families in dealing with the disease.

Public awareness of juvenile arthritis and the importance of related scientific research is critical. Today the Federal Government and private voluntary organizations across the country are working together to educate Americans about juvenile arthritis while advancing studies of the disease. These cooperative efforts are evidence of our Nation's determination to conquer juvenile arthritis.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 142, has designated the week beginning July 28, 1991, as "National Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning July 28, 1991, as National Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Week. I urge all Americans—and, in particular, government agencies and health care organizations—

to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities designed to promote public awareness of juvenile arthritis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6319 of July 31, 1991

Helsinki Human Rights Day, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

In 1975, when the United States, Canada, and 33 European states joined in adopting the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, we affirmed "the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole." Signatories to the Helsinki accords also recognized that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential not only to achieving lasting peace among nations but also to promoting their social and economic development. During the past 16 years, the CSCE process begun at Helsinki has played a leading role in building mutual confidence, reducing the risk of conflict, and enhancing the growth of democracy and openness in Europe. This year we welcome Albania's entry into the CSCE community and its commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms that this symbolizes.

The tremendous changes that have swept central and eastern Europe underscore the CSCE's effectiveness in advancing the goal of universal compliance with the Helsinki accords. At their meeting in Paris last November, CSCE members welcomed the emergence of a new transatlantic partnership of nations based on a mutual commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law. In signing the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, members added to existing CSCE principles new and sweeping commitments to political pluralism, free elections, free enterprise, and the rule of law. New CSCE institutions established at the Paris summit—such as the Office for Free Elections in Warsaw, the CSCE Secretariat in Prague, and the Conflict Prevention Center in Vienna—strengthen the CSCE's ability to help consolidate and to build upon recent gains. The United States encouraged and welcomed these developments as evidence that the CSCE can serve not only as a catalyst for change but also itself change to reflect the demands of an evolving Europe.

During the June meeting of CSCE foreign ministers in Berlin, the Conference endorsed the report of the Valletta Meeting on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and agreed to designate the Conflict Prevention Center in Vienna as the nominating institution to help settle disputes. Members also agreed on a mechanism for holding emergency official-level meetings of the CSCE, which has first been called into action in the current Yugoslav crisis.